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Throughout the six long years of war since Germany's panzer divisions rolled into Poland and the Luftwaffe rained death and destruction upon defenseless Polish civilians, the people of Poland never submitted to the hated invaders. Inside the country resistance went underground while those who could—hundreds of thousands of them—made their way over mountains and across burning frontiers to fight the enemy from free soil.

The contribution of the Polish Army, Navy and Air Force to final victory has been considerable. But although the Polish record is a notable one, Polish sacrifices have been equally high.

Many are the crosses in military cemeteries where Polish heroes lie buried. And many are the hospital beds where wounded soldiers, seamen and aviators await recovery. Above is a scene showing Polish wounded airmen being entertained by their countrymen in the ward of a hospital in Britain.

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"INDEPENDENCE FOR POLAND IS FAR OFF"

Excerpt from a speech made on December 7, 1945 by Vice Admiral E. A. Taylor in the House of Commons during a parliamentary debate on conditions in Poland.

"FROM information which I have received and which I believe to be absolutely reliable there can be no doubt that there has been very little improvement in the conditions existing in Poland. The goal of independence and freedom for the people of Poland is as far off as ever. The Provisional Government of Poland, composed as it is of the members of the Lublin Committee, with the addition of four other members not elected by the people of Poland, is entirely under the dictates and the control of Russia. That Government has not got the support of the vast majority of the people in Poland, who had no say in setting it up. In order that Poland may have a chance of obtaining her independence and freedom for self-expression for her people, in order that free elections may take place in accordance with our democratic principles, we have given assurance after assurance to Poland that we stand for her independence, we stand for the freedom of elections in that country without interference from outside. Under the present conditions these things are impossible. In my humble opinion, in order that Poland may obtain her independence and freedom for self-expression it is essential that the control of Poland by Russia should be brought to an end, and that freedom should be given to all the Polish political parties, including the National party, which was dissolved by order of the Provisional Government in Poland. It was one of the main political parties in the underground movement, whose only crime was to fight against the Germans from first to last. Further, freedom for the individual, freedom for the Press, and freedom of speech and for the wireless should be an assured fact. The three leaders, the main leaders, of the political parties of Poland, and General Okulicki, who formed part of the 15 Polish members, who were asked to go to Russian headquarters, were given a safe conduct by Russia and were then arrested, tried and condemned and now are in prison in Russia, should be set free.

"If these changes could be brought about in that unhappy country, I am sure that the vast majority of Poles who are at present living outside Poland, and under existing conditions will not voluntarily return to their country, much as they desire to do so, would return, and then that country would have a chance of securing its independence and its freedom for elections. To bring this about the Russian forces, except those which are required for the safeguarding of their lines of communication, should be withdrawn. I think the Under-Secretary of State will agree when I say that Russia agreed to this. It has not been done. The Russian secret police, the N.K.V.D. should also be withdrawn from Poland. There may, of course, have been changes, some forces leaving Poland and others coming in from Russia to relieve them, but Russian forces in Poland have not been withdrawn. The N.K.V.D. are all over Poland. The land of Poland belongs to the Poles, not to Russia. Under the N.K.V.D. are the secret police, set up by the Polish Provisional Government. They act under them and with them.

"At the request of the Polish Provisional Government the Russian forces were regrouped, where they had been concentrated in some places, and were sent off to garrison many of the main provincial and some of the smaller towns in Poland under a Russian General who was in charge of the province. It may be argued or stated that that was done in order that law and order might be maintained. From two points of view it is significant that these Russian forces were sent to these towns. If it was the Poles, in the main, who were creating disturbances, engaging in banditry and so on, could not the Polish Army and the Polish police have dealt with the situation? Why send Russian forces and put a

Russian general in charge of the province? It is a well-known fact that there have been many desertions from the Russian Army, and I ask why the Polish Army and the Polish police cannot maintain law and order in their own country. The step of spreading Russian forces over Poland must still further strengthen Russia's control over that country. The Polish Army is largely officered by Russians, especially in the higher ranks. The whole of the air force is Russian, and I believe also the Signal Corps and the armored units. There is no Polish Air Force, and the personnel in the Polish Navy includes Russian officers. The Russians are in complete control of the ports of Stettin and Swinemünde, Polish ports which belong to Poland. I know that they took over control of those ports at the invitation, so called, of the Polish Provisional Government, but that does not make the matter any better. To me it is a further proof of how completely the Polish Provisional Government is under the domination of Russia. Surely the Government of Poland would not acquiesce, if they could have prevented it, in their two main ports being turned over to the control of a foreign country."

"I have stated that Poland is under the complete control of Russia and the facts which I have given are indisputable. The facts undoubtedly prove the truth of my statement that Poland is under the control of Russia. Apart from that, Poland is being strangled economically by systematic spoliation, especially Eastern Poland, Pomerania, Silesia and East Prussia. In many cases factories have been stripped of their machinery, which has been exported to Russia. The coal produced in Silesia by the Poles has to be sold to Russia at far below the cost of its production, notwithstanding that Poland is terribly short of coal and that a few weeks ago

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PEACE THROUGH SACRIFICE OF SOVEREIGNTY

by WLADYSLAW TALMONT

ON November 23 and 25, during a debate on British foreign policy in the House of Commons, Mr. Anthony Eden and Mr. Ernest Bevin made some far-reaching statements. Mr. Eden in opening the debate on foreign policy, stated among other things, that "Every scientific discovery makes greater nonsense of old-time conception of sovereignty, yet it is not the least use deluding ourselves . . ." and further: "In the light of discoveries about atomic energy, I think the San Francisco charter should be reviewed particularly with respect to the veto which is an anachronism in the modern world."

This viewpoint was further discussed the very next day by Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin, who declared that Great Britain is for a directly elected world assembly, and that Britain would be willing to limit part of her national sovereignty for the specific purpose of peace. Mr. Bevin justly stressed: "The fact is no one ever surrenders sovereignty. They merge it into a greater sovereignty for a limited and specific purpose. I am willing to sit with anybody of any party of any nation to try and devise a franchise or constitution for a world assembly of limited objective, the objective of peace."

These two declarations, supported by Richard A. Butler, speaker for the Opposition in Commons, seem to be a new British conception of a solution of international problems. They were qualified by the *New York Times* correspondent, Herbert L. Matthews, as a "revolutionary idea."

In discussing the principles of the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals the writer wrote:

"It is quite evident at this time that many nations and states, and particularly those lesser in power, are willing to sacrifice more than ever before in history on the part of their sovereign rights for the sole purpose of ensuring lasting peace and security, and the means of solving each and every dispute in a just and amicable manner.

"The big powers, however, may constitute a serious difficulty in this regard. But it seems fair to say that the greater they are, the larger their responsibilities, and so they too owe the common cause greater sacrifices. If these powers were willing to abandon the obsolete conception of sovereignty and to comply with more contemporary ideas of cooperation among nations, and maintain such an attitude, their gift to humanity would be greater than any of the sacrifices made to win this or other wars. It would mean a basis for lasting peace, security and justice to the entire world."—*Justice in Exile*, by W. Talmont, February 1945.

It is because of this opinion that the writer welcomes with great hopes the recent pronouncements of British statesmen. Their criticism of experiences with the new international organization as set up in San Francisco during April and May of this year, as well as suggestions regarding the future of the United Nations Organization deserve great attention and open public discussion.

The conception itself is not new and not as revolutionary as it may seem at first glance. The value of these declarations and their "revolutionary" character lie not in the presentation of a new idea but in the recognition of the fact that the San Francisco set-up can not work when veto power is granted the big powers, and in the recognition of the right conceptions of an effort to find a proper solution for international troubles.

Atomic bomb or no atomic bomb, the principles of the Dumbarton Oaks and San Francisco Charter—unjust and anti-democratic—could not possibly stand the test of life.

Such an "anachronism" as the veto power, one of the compromises accepted against the principles of the Atlantic Charter, has prevented to date any constructive action on the

part of the U.N.O. In the future it would become an obstruction to any action wherever the interests of "big powers" would collide. A provision of this kind was bound to turn the international organization of all nations into an arena for political games between great powers.

There were, of course, many who were opposed to this conception. Among others, the writer stated in February of this year that "The organization of the Security Council as proposed, may turn the entire international organization into an instrument of big power politics," and it is indeed sad that so pessimistic a viewpoint has proved true within so short a period of time. From the failure of the Big Five Conference in London, the tremendous difficulties of the U.N.O. preparatory commissions and the political maneuvers of big powers all over the world, it is quite evident that the idea was a wrong one.

It is not important whether the necessary process will be obtained through the surrender or merging of part of sovereignty for the purpose of peace. The readiness to do so by one of the greatest powers, a power with the highest record in history of revising man's rights to freedom by way of evolution, may well bring new hope to this war-torn world; in the finale this may mean an organization which will ensure peace and spell the right to freedom for each and every nation.

One of the most important problems which remained quite obscure after the declarations of British statesmen is: for the benefit of what kind of international organization should the surrender of sovereignty be made?

As things now stand, no state would be willing to do so for the benefit of the U.N.O., both because of the shortcomings of the San Francisco Charter and of the rules pertaining to the Security Council. The idea of forming a super-state or an assembly outside of the U.N.O. does not appear to be a sound conception. It may be a transitory solution, a new compromise aimed at the future merging of both international institutions into one supreme body. It may even prove to be a useful compromise through which more and more states might gradually become bound by certain agreements to surrender some of their sovereign rights for the benefit of the world community.

However, the only sound and prompt solution is to admit the obvious necessity of rewriting the San Francisco Charter. The principles proclaimed as the goals of humanity during the Second World War should become the foundation of a new organization. After proper settlement of the mass wrong and injustice committed through the past years of war which we might call a period of evil compromises and inconsiderate expediencies, we should start a new organization of nations willing to make sacrifices and to cooperate. If such an organization is strong, the more reluctant nations will be forced to join.

All small nations will wholeheartedly acclaim such a solution. For the smaller countries, if they refuse to remain the puppets of greater powers, this is their only security and sole solution. Poland, for instance, has often in history prompted the formation of unions which could exist only when the adjoining states had been willing to sacrifice part of their sovereignty.

The famous Lublin Union under which Poland, Lithuania and Ruthenia became merged, was based on the good will of representatives of these nations and achieved by the merging of their sovereignty.

The Polish Government in London recently planned the formation of a Central European Union.

Many statesmen have expressed their opinion that future

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AN AMERICAN OFFICER PAYS TRIBUTE TO POLISH VALOR AND ENDURANCE



Lt. Col. Henry Szymanski

AFTER more than three years service overseas, Lieutenant Colonel Henry Szymanski, a graduate of the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, is home in Evanston, Illinois, on leave.

Col. Szymanski's first assignment was in Persia and was that of liaison officer with the Polish Army then being evacuated from Russia under Gen. Wladyslaw Anders. Here he had an opportunity to observe in what an appalling

sending the Poles to the attack because I know only they will take Monte Cassino. If Catroux does not believe us, we might wire him an invitation to breakfast with us in Monte Cassino the day after tomorrow, what do you say?" We all agreed," Col. Szymanski continued, "and a few minutes later a telegram was on its way to Algiers bearing the signature of Gen. Alexander, Gen. Anders, Bishop Gawlina and myself. The breakfast took place according to plan."

Col. Szymanski explains that the Polish Second Corps at present occupies a wide area of northern Italy. The Polish occupation zone extends almost to Trieste. Headquarters are in Ancona, which was also won by the Poles. Bari in southern Italy serves as a base with hospitals, schools, etc. At this moment the Corps numbers 120,000 officers and men. Of these 8,000 have expressed the desire to return to Poland. The rest have elected to remain, confident that they will still secure independence for Poland.

Several months ago, Col. Szymanski was transferred from Italy to Germany, where he was assigned to a post of responsibility in Gen. Eisenhower's headquarters in Frankfurt on the Main. Again traveling extensively, Col. Szymanski had the opportunity to get acquainted with the fine bearing of the soldiers of the Polish First Corps, stationed in northern Germany.

He relates with real satisfaction how despite the suffering and inhuman tortures they suffered in German camps, their morale quickly revived. At first, the desire to return to Poland was very strong. Their longing for their homeland and families, the uncertainty of fate in a foreign land, the prospect of many years of wandering, being cut off from the outside world—all this prompted these Poles who had gone through so much to ask for repatriation.

But gradually the situation changed. The inhuman treatment of the repatriates on the border of the Soviet zone and the conditions encountered by them in Poland could not remain secret. Many of the repatriates returned and told their former fellow-victims what they had seen in Soviet-occupied Poland.

So the Poles in Germany began to organize and by their own initiative to create beautifully run Polish towns in certain parts of northern Germany. At the same time the Amer-

ican authorities classified former Polish war prisoners as Recovered Allied Military Personnel, grouped them in separate camps, dressed them in American uniforms minus insignia, gave them military shoes, overcoats, and arms and turned them into special units which help the Americans to police the Germans. As the number of soldiers in the U. S. Army in Germany is rapidly growing smaller, more and more of these Polish units are being assigned to police duty. They guard bridges, railroad embankments, warehouses, buildings housing the occupying authorities, etc. Of course, the material situation of these Poles has improved considerably. Giving them something to do has also had a beneficial effect upon their morale, for it is easy to imagine the satisfaction of a Pole who spent 5 or 6 years in German camps suffering the worst treatment, and who is now told to stand guard over his former torturers. The U. S. authorities are very pleased with these newly created, or rather, reborn soldiers. It may be presumed that as more American troops are withdrawn from Europe, the number of Polish police units will grow even larger.

All Poles who are in Germany for the time being, have been screened by American authorities with the help of numerous "teams" of Polish liaison officers. They have been divided into various categories and—in view of the halt in repatriation for the winter—are now waiting for what spring will bring them.

According to Col. Szymanski, one of the most unfortunate groups of displaced Poles are those who were shipped from that part of Poland seized outright by Russia. It is difficult to state how many of them were shipped west, but those who were, received no care or attention. They were supposed to take over the farms, stores, or houses left behind by the Germans, but in the meantime—as soon as the Germans were ousted—everything that remained was looted by the Russians. Nothing was left for the Poles who had made the weary trek from Lwow, Wilno, Tarnopol, Stanislawow or Stryj. They camp en masse by the roads, by railroad stations, just as they got off the train—and they see no brighter future before them. And freezing weather and snow are already here . . .

Those Poles who were sent from the East to the West for



The Polish and the British flags atop Monte Cassino Abbey.

work are also in a hopeless situation. They arrive in Silesia only to find there is no possibility of setting the wheels of industry in motion—the machines have gone to Russia . . .

(Condensed from United Polish Press release.)



One of the Polish heroes of Monte Cassino.



These Polish inmates of the concentration camp at Dachau are glad to emerge alive from the infamous German death factory.

TO POLES!

The martyred millions call to you:
They hear the marching feet of scattered exiles
Drawing near to Poland's hallowed streets.
From prison, exile, wanderings dire,
Through centuries of woe, partitioned, scattered,
Still they came, a Unity of Grief!

Poland shall rise, the Brave, the Crucified!
With spirit of the Unconquerable Dead
she calls her sons
To speed to her, to build her shattered walls:

To fare as sowers o'er the Land;
Bid ancient Beauty blossom forth anew,
To show the Glory that was Hers when
heroes walked her ways.

—D. M. Orkney, Roslyn, New Zealand.

The United States and the Polish Question in World War I

by G. I.

RALTON

POLAND owed her independence after World War I to the blood, sweat and tears of her sons and daughters and to the efforts of her Allies. The greatest and most unselfish friend of Poland was the United States of America.

This friendship was not the result of expediency or of coinciding political interests. It is as old as this Republic; it began, like the traditional attachment of America for France, during the War for Independence when Poland's sons gave their devotion and talents to the Revolutionary Army. Kosciuszko brought to the American cause his capacity for leadership and military training gained in the military schools of Poland and France, Pulaski became a brilliant cavalry and infantry commander of the Revolutionary armies and died for this country from wounds received in the battle of Savannah. Sentimental ties between Poland and America were strengthened by the sympathy shown the Poles after the loss of their independence. Since Jefferson denounced the partitions as a crime and an atrocity and Henry Wharton called them "the most flagrant violation of international justice and international law since Europe emerged from barbarism," America has given repeated evidence of her feelings. The Polish cause had many supporters in the United States during the 19th century.

World War I found the Poles divided, some of them collaborating with the Central Powers or forming legions under the command of the Austro-Hungarian army, some (under Russian domination) supporting the Russian solution. But everywhere there was underground a very considerable anti-German and anti-Russian sentiment. Many hundreds of thousands of Polish conscripts in the armed forces of the three partitioning powers had no choice, being compelled to lay down their lives in the battles of their oppressors and to fight against their kinsmen. The Poles in America, without being obliged to choose between Russia and the Central Powers, were deeply interested in making their contribution as effective as possible. Under the inspiring leadership of Ignacy Paderewski, they devoted themselves to raising funds for destitute and to promoting in America sympathetic understanding of the Polish universal sympathy for Poland was peculiarly characteristic feature of World War I. The present trend of public opinion when these currents have been doing a lot of harm

The efforts of the Polish committees in Warsaw, Petrograd, Cracow and Vienna, the gallant deeds of the Legions on the Russian front, were the most notable phases of the road towards Poland's restoration. In the meantime, the European friends of Poland were busy, but the critical problems of the Western Allies and the alliance with Russia—which insisted on regarding Poland as exclusively her own affair—blocked any real progress. These factors did not operate in the case of the United States, which began to take active part in Polish matters early in 1915. The relief activities prepared the ground for the political intervention in 1917-19.

A large number of Polish American local associations and organizations coordinated their separate relief efforts under a Polish Central Relief Committee, while Paderewski's Polish Victim Relief Fund solicited support mainly from the American public. During the winter of 1915-16 resolutions expressing sympathy and urging relief were introduced in Congress, and President Wilson by proclamation designated January 1, 1916, as a day for making donations "for the aid of the stricken Polish people."

Of a different character were the Hoover proposals for the relief of the Polish territory occupied by Germany and Austria, made at the beginning of 1915 and the subject of negotiations with the belligerent governments for nearly two years. Reports, investigations, diplomatic interventions met with no success whatever. The powers sought to place the moral responsibility for the failure upon each other and Poland was denied large scale relief from America until the armistice. These negotiations, however, although they failed to accomplish their object, inevitably directed attention to Poland's political situation. Sympathy for the war sufferings of the Poles merged with sympathy for their demands for unity and independence of their nation.

The value of Paderewski's labors in the interest of his native land during those years cannot be overstated. His renown as an artist, his eloquence and his splendid devotion, his friendship with President Wilson—eminently fitted him for his role of bringing Poland's case to the attention of millions.

Popular support for Polish aspirations gained headway more rapidly in America than elsewhere. The first of these external events which profoundly influenced the evolution of the Polish question was Woodrow Wilson's declaration regarding the future of Poland made in the course of his January 22, 1917 speech. A month earlier the President had asked the belligerents to state their war aims in order to clear the way for a negotiated peace. The answers were not encouraging. As for Poland, the Central Powers stood on the two Kaisers' manifesto of Novem-

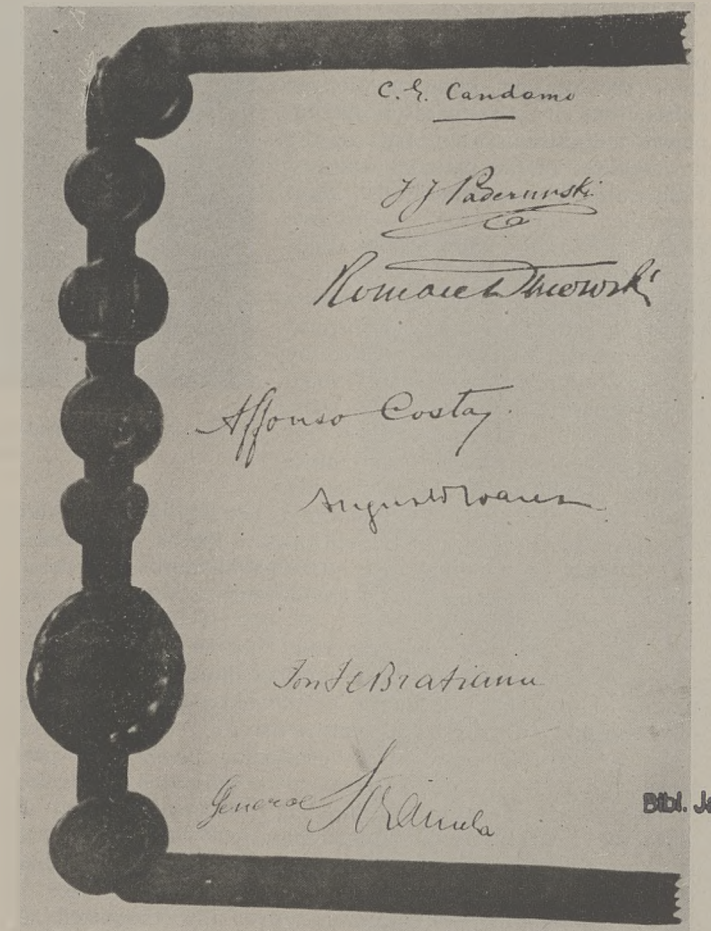
ber, 1916, granting a limited autonomy within the framework of Mitteleuropa while the Entente Allies accepted the policy promising the establishment of a united autonomous Poland under Russian rule. The President's next peace move—his speech of January 22, 1917—was an appeal to the peoples of the belligerents over the heads of their governments. It was a first expression of the principles embodied later in the 14 Points. With reference to Poland, in support of his arguments that governments derive their powers from the consent of the governed, Wilson said: "... statesmen everywhere are agreed that there should be a united, independent and autonomous Poland. . ." Poland was for him a particularly flagrant violation of the right to self-determination. Wilson's statement on Poland heartened Poles everywhere. They expressed their gratitude in demonstrations and resolutions, and even the Provisional Council of State set up under German auspices in Warsaw thanked the President for his advocacy of an independent Poland. For the first time the head of a great power had championed



"Kosciuszko and Pulaski fought for American freedom. Will you help America fight for freedom in Poland? Eat less wheat, meat, fats, sugar so that we might help our brethren battling in the Allied Armies. U.S. Food Control Bureau." Poster distributed in the United States during World War I.

the Polish cause without selfish interests, emphasizing the inadequacy of the Russian and Austrian solution. It is true that the declaration of January 22 did not mean complete independence for Poland, it is true that an independent and at the same time an autonomous Poland is a kind of contradiction . . . but it cannot be denied that the subsequent entry of America into the war greatly increased the weight of American support of Polish independence. World opinion reacted to the President's advocacy of the right to self-determination as an American and ultimately an Allied war aim. The American proposal concerning Poland was so far in advance of the course of European diplomacy that a year elapsed before the Western Allies were ready to follow Wilson's lead. In the meantime, the United States was the only one of the nations at war with the Central Powers to be publicly committed to a truly Polish solution of the question.

During 1917 the Czarist government fell and its successors conceded Polish independence, but still the shadow of the old alliance with Russia blocked specific recognition of the Polish program by the Entente. This changed after the revolution of November 7, 1917. Because of the menace of Bolshevism, Poland assumed a more important role in the eyes of Entente diplomats. So the Allied governments came to the open support of that independent and united Poland which Wilson had advocated a year before. In his speech on war aims, the British Prime Minister Lloyd George announced on January 5, 1918, the abandonment of the Czarist solution, in the belief "that an independent Poland, comprising all those gen-



Polish signatures to the Versailles Treaty.



Woodrow Wilson monument by Gutzon Borglum presented to the city of Poznan by Ignacy Paderewski. One of the first acts of the Germans following their invasion of Poland in 1939 was to destroy this national testimonial to the American President.

tainly Polish elements who desire to form a part of it, is an urgent necessity for the stability of Western Europe."

But the effect of this declaration was completely overshadowed by the famous President Wilson's speech three days later (January 8, 1918), in which he stated his Fourteen Points as a program of world peace. The *thirteenth* point dealt exclusively with Poland and was a more specific restatement of his declaration of a year before.

“An independent Polish state should be erected which should include the territories inhabited by indisputably Polish population, which should be assured a free and secure access to the sea and whose political and economic independence should be guaranteed by international covenants.”

This declaration had and still has a supreme historical significance. The wording was not quite satisfactory and caused many interpretations and discussions as it became the basis of the Polish territorial settlement. It was based on the principles of nationality and economic necessity, though Wilson and his advisers realized that it would be impossible

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MODERN REVIVAL OF POLISH TEXTILE ART

by DR. IRENA PIOTROWSKA

IN modern Poland, the revival of hand-made textiles was due to the attempts made by artists to give a national character to Polish handicrafts. The study of Polish peasant art had taught them many a lesson; in particular what interesting results could be achieved by the use of native raw materials, like wool, flax and hemp, of which the country supplied an abundance. Peasant textiles also showed what rich and unusual effects of texture and color can be produced through the proper blending of these materials. Last but not least, peasant weaving had remained true to the classic method of textile art in that it followed the dictates of the loom.

In 1901 *The Association of Polish Applied Arts*, to promote the study of peasant crafts, was founded in Cracow. The year before the outbreak of the last war. *The Cracow Workshops*, a research center for artists interested in peasant handicrafts, were organized. The work done there contributed greatly to a better understanding of peasant costume



Shrubs and Animals. Modern carpet designed by Halina Karpinska, executed by *Lad*.

textiles, that were still being produced in many localities. But it was the kilim which played a leading role in the revival of modern textile art, and even in that of Polish decorative arts generally.

Owing to the German systematic persecution of all art activities in Poland, the peasant kilim no longer exists, but it passed after having played a most important part in the development of the national traits of Polish art. The modern Polish kilim flourished during the twenty-five years preceding the war. Well-known Polish artists, professionally trained, were devoting their talents to the kilim. They derived inspiration from the old kilims created by peasants, realizing that the traditional element naturally reveals itself most clearly in folk art, because this is less exposed to new influences and more faithfully clings to forms handed down from the past. Contemporary artists, however, did not make slavish copies of the old peasant kilims, but treated them creatively, adapting their ornamental motifs and color harmonies to modern stylistic trends and to the exigencies of present-day technique.

As of old, the decorative patterns of modern Polish kilims consist of simple geometrical designs, or more often, of floral motifs. Through the influence of the old peasant kilims, a distant affinity with Oriental textiles may be recognized. The richness of ornamental motifs combining geometrical patterns with stylized flowers, seems to be unlimited; the color schemes are invigorating and pleasing to the eye.

At the 1925 International Exhibition of Decorative Arts in Paris, where for the first time the reborn Polish Republic had a Pavilion of its own, the kilim occupied the place of honor. Its national character was universally recognized. It was an artistic triumph! The most beautiful Polish kilims were those by Bogdan Treter, Professor at the Academy of Fine Arts at Cracow; by Jozef Czajkowski and Wojciech Jastrzebowski, Professors at the Academy of Fine Arts in



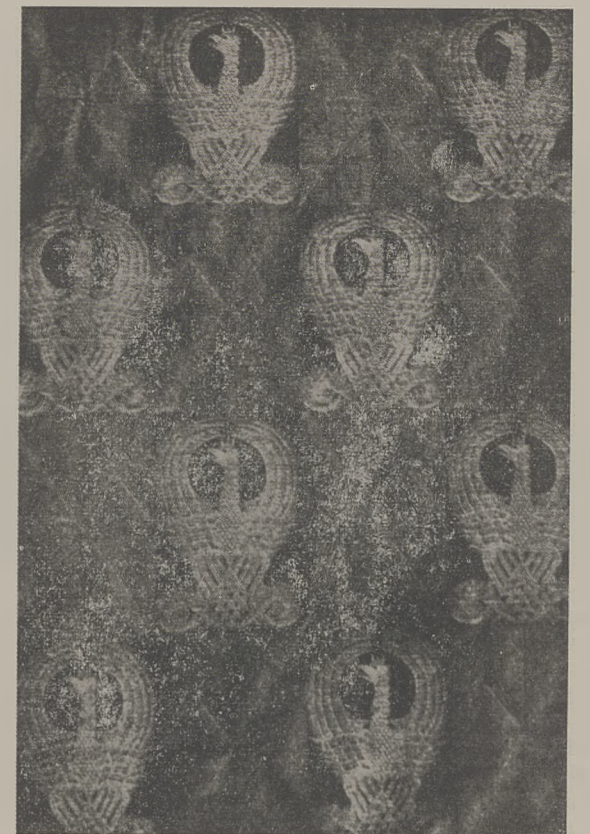
Modern Polish Kilim. Designed by Wojciech Jastrzebowski, executed by *Kilim Polski*.

devoted exclusively to the production of kilims.

In contrast to the modern kilim which, with the rebirth of Polish industrial arts toward the beginning of the century, almost immediately reached a definite style of its own, the Polish "Gobelins," after a century of neglect, made their first steps only very timidly. Of great interest, however, are the "Gobelins" woven after designs of the wood engraver, Wladyslaw Skoczylas and the mural decorator and book illustrator, Zofia Stryjenska. The decorative talent of both these artists peculiarly lent

Warsaw; and by Wanda Kossecka and Eleonora Plutynska.

Members of the Warsaw co-operative society of interior decorative arts, called *Lad*, which means *order* or *harmony*, have since become famous for the kilims they produced. *Lad* was founded in 1926 on the initiative of professors of the Warsaw Academy in co-operation with their pupils. This society, active up to the very moment of Germany's unprovoked aggression in 1939, was the latest link in the chain of endeavor since the beginning of the century, to improve Polish decorative arts. The statutes of *Lad* prescribed the exclusive use of native raw materials, which were submitted to searching tests in *Lad's* workshops by the artists and craftsmen working there and who personally supervised every detail involved in the whole process of dyeing and turning the raw material into finished products. The technical and artistic qualities of the *Lad* kilims and all other arts and crafts produced by this institution, won the highest admiration both at home and abroad. But it is well to remember that while *Lad* was the leading and most versatile institution of the kind in reborn Poland, many other workshops and many art schools produced arts and crafts of equal beauty and perfection. Some of the workshops were



Polish Eagles. Modern linen. Designed by Lucjan Kintopf, executed by *Lad*.

itself to designs suitable to the Gobelin technique.

The most surprising result in this branch of tapestry was achieved a few years before this war in the now famous tapestries in honor of King Jan Sobieski, the victor over the Turks. They were first exhibited in the Polish Pavilion at the Paris International in 1937, and two years later decorated the Hall of Honor of the Polish Pavilion in New York. Technically, they present a most interesting combination of hard tapestry weave with needle-work superimposed. The scenes were masterfully composed by a young graduate of the Warsaw Academy of Fine Arts, the painter Mieczyslaw Szymanski. However, this work owes its final appearance to the collaboration of this artist with a number of others, no less talented, experienced in tapestry weaving and embroidery, all

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Angel. Detail of the Jan Sobieski Gobelin, 1937. Designed by Mieczyslaw Szymanski.



Birds. Silk textiles, 1936. Detail. Designed by Turkiewicz, executed by *Lad*.

MODERN REVIVAL OF POLISH TEXTILE ART

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of them members of *Lad*. This collaboration reminds one of that by the eleven painters of the *Brotherhood of St. Luke* who jointly executed the seven historical paintings for the Polish Pavilion in New York. Like these painters, the artists-craftsmen labored for long months on the *King Sobieski* embroidered tapestries and they recognized the great artistic importance of the collaboration of a group of artists on one art project, a method which gave such fine results in the Middle Ages when good craftsmanship was held in so high an esteem.

On a blue-green background done in wool by means of the classic Gobelin technique, three scenes, full of life, verve, and humor, were created, partly with the aid of superimposed threads of flax, silk, wool, and even gold. On one of them King Sobieski is presented with his wife in a garden. A comet in the sky is an omen of war. The second tapestry shows the great King in the company of Emperor Leopold after the victory. In the third, an angel, blowing a trumpet, announces peace. This last scene is executed entirely in the Gobelin technique. The whole is a fascinating mixture of Oriental splendor with the clearness and restraint of Western art. It breathes the same spirit as the most beautiful woolen or silk textiles of old Poland, which likewise merged the beauty of the Middle East with that of the West, at the same time remaining Polish through and through. The *King Sobieski* tapestries received the highest award at the Paris Exhibition.

Like modern Polish "Gobelins," so also knotted and tufted hand-woven carpets became popular much later than the kilims; but during the last decade of Poland's independence they evolved quickly and gradually took the place of the kilims in many public and representative buildings, thanks to their greater weight and durability. But they could never oust the ever-beloved kilim from private homes.

While at an earlier time the conscious effort of the artists to develop a national style often led them to rely chiefly on native tradition, during the last years of Poland's independence artists no longer feared the loss of their national individuality, even when paying more attention to styles developed abroad and less to indigenous peasant art. This tendency was also marked in many other branches of Polish art of the time, as for instance in sculpture, painting, wood engraving, cabinet-making, etc. It also contributed no doubt to the fact that the *Lad* artists studied more closely than ever the varied techniques of carpet weaving in France, Eng-



Modern Polish Kilim with Stripe Motif, Diagonal Lines, and Spruce Motif.



Modern Polish Gobelin. Designed by Wladyslaw Skoczylas, executed by Jadwiga Handelsman.

land, Holland, Finland, Sweden, and America. Along with traditionally knotted and tufted carpets, deep-pile rugs were produced, often with designs raised or carved into the pile, and as in foreign so in Polish rugs of the last decade before this war, scattered, isolated motifs predominated. The simplicity of these was strongly influenced by modern "abstract" art. But even in spite of this affinity of the most modern Polish carpets to those produced abroad, they are distinguished by heavier and coarser native wool and more vivid colors, and by the preference given to stylized floral and animal motifs which at times recall the patterns on the old peasant rugs from the Grodno district. Among others, Halina Karpinska achieved striking results in carpet designing. Of great interest was the carpet on the floor of the *Dining Room* in the Polish Pavilion at the New York World's Fair. The American magazine *Interior Design and Decoration*, in its special issue devoted to the Fair (June 1939), called it "one of the finest carved rugs in the entire Fair: a masterpiece of raised weaving representing a flower garden and fishpond in natural colors." It was designed by Barbara Brukalska, architect, Boleslaw Cybis, painter, and Maria Cybis, sculptress; and was woven by Jadwiga Handelsman. The refinements of the most modern carpet-making technique were here employed to bring out the Polish love of nature and its splendor.

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THE POLISH YMCA CARRIES ON

AFTER six years of unyielding resistance to the Germans, Poland presents a tragic picture. The murder of over six million of its citizens—including a high percentage of specialists and educated youth—has crippled the nation's economic and moral life. Malnutrition—throughout the occupation Polish children saw no milk, butter or fruits and still are not much better off—has resulted in the arrested development of Poland's young people. Over 80% of the children and over 35% of university students are infected with tuberculosis. There are close to half a million orphans in Poland. About one million children need complete care while two and a half million need nourishment, clothing and body-building medicines. In Warsaw alone, 70,000 school children live among the ruins. More than 800,000 invalids and cripples are deprived of medical treatment and artificial limbs. All medical institutions for children were entirely destroyed by the Germans. Out of 700 pre-war advisory centers and nurseries, only 200 remain and even these are completely lacking in all essential equipment. Of 677 pre-war hospitals, there are only 400 left, stripped of X-ray apparatus, scales, bathtubs and all other supplies and equipment.

So heartbreaking is the situation that Andrzej Krasicki, director of the Polish YMCA in Poland, has come to this country at the invitation of the International Committee of the YMCA to enlist the active support of the American public for his suffering countrymen. The Polish YMCA, founded shortly after World War I by Paul Super, is a non-political institution which despite the loss of most of its \$2,000,000 equipment, is doing a big relief job, especially for the children. The Polish 'Y' has the set-up and the trained personnel to carry on this work. What it needs is money, equipment and all manner of articles to help it relieve the misery of the Poles. It needs woollen winter clothing, shoes and warm underwear. It is in quest of such items as fats, dried and condensed milk, cocoa, chocolate, fruit juices, meat preserves, dried eggs, vitamins, cod liver oil, body-building medicines, calcium, phosphorus and iron tonics. Beds, mattresses, blankets and linen, cars and ambulances are also needed in huge



Directors of the Polish YMCA. Left to right: Paul Super, General Director of the Polish YMCA in all countries; Andrzej Krasicki, Director of the Polish YMCA in Poland; Henryk Majchrzak, Director of the Polish YMCA in Great Britain; and Kenneth J. Smith, traveling field secretary of the Polish YMCA.

quantities.

Through lack of home life and school education and direction, many hundreds of thousands of growing Polish boys and girls are running wild. The problem of moral rehabilitation is very important and the need for assistance from the YMCA is great. Poland has no sporting equipment whatsoever. Each basketball or tennis racket is worth its weight in gold. During the German occupation, says Mr. Krasicki, sports were forbidden for Poles. He recalls one instance when a number of boys who had engaged in an illegal game of soccer in the YMCA yard in Warsaw, were arrested and sent to concentration camps from which they never returned.

Primary and secondary schools have lost over 40% of their teachers and the Universities over 50% of their professors. Textbooks, copy books, manuals and all kinds of school equipment are completely lacking. It is estimated that it will take at least 50 years to rebuild the scientific life of Poland to its 1939 level. The YMCA is doing what it can to help by opening public libraries and reading rooms wherever possible. Books are urgently needed on all subjects and in all languages.

Mr. Krasicki, who has been active in YMCA work in Poland for close to 25 years, is well known to international YMCA circles. The outbreak of war in September 1939 found him in Sweden, following a trip to England to get help for the Polish YMCA. He managed to get back into Poland on the fifth day of the war and after Mr. Super's departure, took over the direction of the Polish YMCA.

The Polish YMCA rendered signal services to both the army and civilians during the epic defense of Warsaw in 1939. Then came the five and one-half cruel years of German occupation. All buildings of the YMCA were soon taken over by the Germans, the Cracow building being turned into Nazi headquarters. In Warsaw the use of

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Part of the badly battered YMCA headquarters on Warsaw's Konopnicka Street. This largest YMCA building in Europe suffered nine bomb hits during the Warsaw 63-day Uprising of 1944.

"INDEPENDENCE FOR POLAND IS FAR OFF"

(Continued from page 2)

no coal was to be had in Warsaw. Away it goes, exported in large quantities to Russia. Also, the great textile industry in Lodz is being exploited for the benefit of the Russian troops, and also exported to Russia notwithstanding that the people of Poland are in rags. It may be, and I believe it has been the case, that the price paid for the coal extracted from Poland was the subject of an agreement between the Polish Provisional Government and Russia. My only answer to that is that it shows the ineptitude of the Polish Provisional Government in looking after the national interests of their own people.

"Large numbers of Polish cattle have been exported to Russia. It may be said that these cattle came from Germany, and many did, but many cattle have also been exported from Poland. Private houses, especially in the Western Provinces, have been looted on a considerable scale. Mass arrests and deportations to Russia or to special concentration camps in Poland are still going on. I am glad to know that these mass arrests are not so bad as they were, but they are still continuing, especially among members of the underground army, that gallant army of Poles whose only crime was that they fought the Germans from first to last. In addition to that—and I am sorry to say that it is undeniable—an enormous number of Polish women have been raped—a disgraceful state of affairs in any civilized country. I wish to draw the attention of the House to a description of these Russian concentration camps. They are small camps and exist by the dozen all over Poland. It is just a hole dug in the ground, six feet deep and 60 yards square, covered with barbed wire—nothing else. It is completely exposed to the weather. In those compounds are 50 men, with no sleeping accommodation, no sanitary arrangements, no medical attention, and food and water are taken to those wretched inmates twice daily. The only possible result is death and disease. Let any honorable Member imagine the conditions of the human beings in such compounds in the terrible weather conditions during the winter in Poland. They must freeze to death. Such camps should not be permitted for one moment in any civilized country.

"In Poland there is still no freedom of the Press, as was stated by the British Ambassador the other day, and no freedom of speech. There is no freedom of the individual; it just does not exist in Poland. I would say this, that Mr. Mikolajczyk was granted permission to edit a paper for the Polish Peasant Party and there were also allowed one or two Catholic papers. It sounds very well that Mr. Mikolajczyk should have the opportunity to express freely the opinions of the party which he represents, but, as a matter of fact, before these papers can be published they are all censored by the Government. Therefore, it is obvious that it is impossible for those who edit the papers to express their real opinion if it is contrary to that of the Government. It is well known, of course that the wireless is completely under the control of the Government. There is the usual technique, whereby loud speakers are arranged in the streets so that the people may listen to the Government sponsored

broadcasts. I understand that wireless sets are allowed—a very good thing—but I am also informed that valves are unobtainable, so that they are not of much use. It is possible to obtain a wireless set on the black market, but those who do so find they have to explain how they got it, and it is not very pleasant for you when that inquiry takes place. There is a rule that public meetings can take place only when sponsored by the Government, and there is the usual technique whereby, a resolution is put up, there is no opposition and it is unanimously adopted.

"Mr. Mikolajczyk was permitted to try to reconstitute the Polish Peasant Party, outside that party which was set up by the Provisional Government, but it is rather significant to know that about a month ago the Government wireless attacked Mr. Mikolajczyk because he would not agree to remain in the Peasant Party set up by the regime, the line of attack being that he was breaking the unity of the Polish Peasant Party, and his followers were branded as Fascists and reactionaries. That is the usual technique when they want to get rid of anybody who does not agree with the Government. He has only quite lately been allowed to start reconstituting his own party under all the restrictions imposed upon it. I am informed that some meetings of his party have taken place, but again, a significant fact is that some of his followers have subsequently been arrested. I ask the Minister, under conditions such as those in which one is arrested when one goes to a meeting, how is it possible for any party which is not in agreement with the existing Government in Poland ever to be constituted at all? Of course, it is quite impossible.

"One could speak for a very long time about these things. They form a very distressing picture and, in my opinion, they are undoubtedly made worse by the iron screen which Russia has imposed on the whole of Poland and over every other area where she is in control. Can anything more effective be thought of to create greater suspicion and arouse more intense curiosity on the part of other nations, than to have round the country an impenetrable screen of secrecy? If you want to arouse real curiosity on the part of anybody, just hang in a room in your house an empty frame and draw a curtain across it. Every individual who goes into that room will, out of pure curiosity and desire to know what is behind that curtain, draw it on one side. Those are the conditions which have been brought about by the secrecy of Russia, and in my opinion there is not a shadow of doubt about it. Why is there this secrecy? What is there to hide? Surely to goodness it would be of enormous advantage to the world in general if that screen were lifted so that the world might know the real conditions in Poland. It would be very much to the advantage of everybody. There has been very little change for the better since the Provisional Government was set up. How can there be any change for the better under conditions of that kind, with a Communist government carrying out Communist principles? One may agree or disagree with Communist principles—that is not the point—but the people of Poland had no say in this Government, and the majority of them are entirely opposed to it. The Polish people are getting more and more desperate and embittered against it."

PEACE THROUGH SACRIFICE OF SOVEREIGNTY

(Continued from page 3)

peace and cooperation among nations depend largely on their willingness to surrender part of their sovereignty for the benefit of larger communities.

How correct these opinions were can now be observed. There are many small nations subjected to foreign influence to such an extent that they have practically lost their sovereign rights. They have lost these rights not to a community of Nations or to an international organization, but to one powerful neighbor state which dictates or enforces its will.

Small nations would certainly prefer to sacrifice much of their sovereignty for the benefit of an international organization; an organization built upon democratic principles, giving them an active and equal part.

As already mentioned, Poland has been and will be ready to give all possible cooperation towards the creation of a workable international organization based on the principles of freedom, equality and democracy.

It is the great powers that are reluctant and cautious in
(Please turn to page 15)

HELENA MORSZTYN—THE CHAMPION OF CHOPIN

by LUDWIKA CIECHANOWIECKA

IMAGINE my surprise when I saw a grand piano running by on 28 legs. Not until a moment later did I notice the 14 human heads on which the huge instrument rested . . ." Thus writes Helena Morsztyn in her unpublished diary.

The Steinway was running into the palace hall in which the distinguished Polish pianist had been invited to play Chopin before the Maharaja of Kapurthala and his wedding guests.

Mme. Morsztyn will have plenty to record in her autobiography, for her life has been a continuous colorful journey alternating between concert halls and royal palaces where one recital sufficed to bring on a flood of invitations from other crowned heads.

By the time the 11-year-old "wonder child" who captivated audiences in the Warsaw Philharmonic had grown of age, there were etched in her mind a thousand vivid impressions. Her subsequent many-year sojourn in Italy has added to these memories.

In Vienna she was the favorite pupil of the famous maestros Emil Sauer and Leszetycki. Later, Italians in Rome and Genoa and Spaniards in Madrid lost their hearts to the witty young girl who resembled a rosy baroque angel. Her music cast its spell over Cairo, where even the great rabbi of Rome listened from the seclusion of a box to the Chopin melodies rendered by the Polish pianist. She played in the residence of the conqueror of Iraq, Lord Allenby, was a daily visitor at the Italian court and gave music lessons to the Belgian-born Crown Princess Marie José of Italy.

Mme. Morsztyn's forebears no doubt look with pleasure upon their great-great-granddaughter's achievements in the world of music. There are important figures galore in the family album. There was the great 17th century poet Andrzej Morsztyn, Chancellor of the Exchequer of the Polish Kingdom, to whom King Sobieski, deliverer of Vienna, presented a chateau in France, reputedly, to keep that author of sparkling and sentimental poetry at a distance from the young and flighty Queen Marysienka who was overly fond of his verse.

Another Morsztyn divided his time between fighting the Turks and composing poems. A third, contemporary, Morsztyn is the author of successful plays. Remaining in Poland after the German invasion in 1939, he turned his estate at Plawowice into a haven for Polish artists and poets.

In the United States Mme. Morsztyn devotes a good part of her energy to the training of new generations of musicians. She has found such a wealth of talent here that she has taken to teaching young America *con amore*.

To date, she has taught no less than three thousand students, of which a sizable number already have given concerts of their own. To her pupils she imparts what she herself possesses through native endowment and what the great music teachers of Europe have given her. And she shares with them the secret of the Chopin prescriptions handed down by her legendary Grandma Malhomme. For Grandma Malhomme, daughter of a Polish 19th century exile in Paris, was a pupil of pan Frederyk Chopin himself. Like all Polish young women of that sad time, Grandma Malhomme suffered a personal tragedy and vowed never to touch the piano again. But when she observed her precocious granddaughter and

saw that for all her talent the child was having difficulty with a Chopin "legato," she unhesitatingly broke her vow and took little Helena under her wing. She entrusted to the youngster all that pan Frederyk had once told her, including many priceless hints, thus fostering in the gifted child a love and understanding of music.

Helena Morsztyn spends the better part of each year in Illinois and the Northwest. Once, when she was "practising" in her studio in Minneapolis, an American soldier knocked at the door and shyly requested permission to listen to "good music." The next day he brought his men and women friends, also in uniform. It was a group of young artists, some of whom were part of an army band. From that day, they gathered in the studio almost every day to listen to someone who really knows how to play Chopin.

In Sioux Falls 40,000 soldiers of the Signal Corps demanded encore after encore, so moved were they by Mme. Morsztyn's performance.

This spontaneous reaction of her soldier audience must have given the "puissant champion of Chopin," as Mme. Morsztyn is called in Minneapolis, greater satisfaction than the applause of conventional crowds or the plaudits of chamberlains at royal courts.



Helena Morsztyn.

"Helena Morsztyn's Chopin recital was one of the most notable in many a season . . . It offered that kind of fully matured musical discourse in which it is impossible to tell the difference between feeling, style, interpretation, perception and knowledge . . . It was one of the most powerful and most engulfing experiences any artist has lately imposed upon us."—EUGENE STINSON, CHICAGO DAILY NEWS.

"Helena Morsztyn revealed at once a heroic tone such as one seldom hears today, backed by a formidable technic and sound musical taste. In her playing of Chopin Fantasy one heard the Paderewski tradition of the monumental line."—NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE.

MODERN REVIVAL OF POLISH TEXTILE ART

(Continued from page 10)

Along with the woolen fabrics, of great importance in the evolution of modern textile art, were weavings of flax. Again the most beautiful linens were produced by *Lad*, which just before the war devoted more attention to them than during the early years of its existence. They were woven on Jacquard looms and intended for wall hangings, table-cloths, bedspreads, curtains, and furniture upholstery. Strongly inspired by hand-woven peasant linens, especially those from the Wilno district, they allowed the color of the flax to show up among threads dyed in many hues, that sparkle amid the predominating shades of grey. The more elaborate among them were interwoven with threads of gold or silver. Their delicacy of technique, subtlety of color, vibration of the surface, allied them to the silk sashes of the old Polish nobility. The rhythmical distribution of ornamental motifs, the oft employed division into narrow horizontal stripes, also reminded one vividly of the old sashes. Thus they linked the present with the past, just as they link modern art with that of the peasant. Lucjan Kintopf became the leading master in designing these linen fabrics.

Earlier the simplest geometrical motifs subordinated to technique requirements predominated in these *Lad* linens, much as they did albeit more simply in the peasant Wilno linens. Later, however, beautifully stylized floral and animal motifs, such as birds and fish, were rhythmically scattered throughout the fabric, in spite of all convention creating an atmosphere of enchanted gardens.

The latter motifs have become favorite designs of *Lad* textiles woven of silk cultivated in Poland; a Central Experimental Silkworm Station in Milanówek, in the vicinity of

Warsaw, was successfully established shortly before the war. The beauty of modern Polish silk weavings is unspeakable. Most effective results were also achieved by the *Lad* artists through combination of silk and flax.

Of great excellence were also large silk tapestries profusely interwoven with gold and silver, manufactured at the revived Buczacz workshops. Here old patterns appearing on eighteenth-century Buczacz tapestries and on the silk sashes of the time, became the basis of many ornamental compositions. Thus like Polish textiles of old they show a mixture of Oriental, French and Polish patterns. As years went by, the traditional motifs of the Buczacz tapestries began to be influenced more and more by the *Lad* weavings, while they themselves, no doubt, exerted an ennobling influence on the latter.

All in all, the greatest achievement of the revival of Polish textile art which started at the very outset of this century and was in full bloom when rudely interrupted by German invasion, lies in the fact that these thoroughly modern textiles made by the most modern technique were Polish to the core. Their creators knew how to derive inspiration both from the relics of the past and from the still flourishing peasant art productions that rooted back to times immemorial. It must also be emphasized that modern Polish textile art happily embraced all kinds of weavings, from the most splendid, like some of the hard tapestry weaves, carpets, and the Buczacz tapestries, destined for the refined and luxurious interiors, to charming linens accessible even to those living in the most modest homes.

—Reprinted from the *Quarterly Bulletin of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America*, October, 1944.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE POLISH QUESTION IN WORLD WAR I

(Continued from page 7)

to apply both principles without conflict. No frontier could be drawn which did not either consign other nationalities to Polish rule or leave Poles under foreign rule, and the economic principle came to include not merely ports, but rivers, railways, mines and oil lands. So the Paris Peace Conference had in 1919 quite a problem to unite the conflicting opinions of the Allied powers. The international guarantee of Poland's economic independence and territorial integrity remained a dead letter. The only guarantee were the provisions of the Versailles Treaty and they lasted only until 1939 . . . But Wilson's formula will forever remain of supreme importance for Poland's cause. It contains the admission that international justice calls for restitution of real independence with an international guarantee, and this principle is no less timely today than it was in 1919.

The Fourteen Points were later accepted by public opinion in the Allied countries as well as by the liberals of the Central Powers and finally became the basis of the armistice. This was achieved on June 3, 1918, when the Prime Ministers of Great Britain, France and Italy agreed that "the creation of a united and independent Poland, with free access to the sea, shall be one of the conditions of a solid and just peace and the rule of right in Europe."

The unity of the Allies with regard to Poland lasted hardly longer than the common danger. After the Allied victory and especially after the establishment of national governments in Central Europe, the armistice and peace negotiations revealed the conflicting aims of the big powers in the Polish question.

In this "battle of the frontiers" the attitude of the European powers was determined not so much by the application of the Wilsonian principles, as by their own national interest. The French vigorously supported the Polish claims to previously German territory not so much because of their historic friendship for Poland but rather in order to weaken

Germany. The British on the other side were not eager to make the new Poland very large or strong and produced the argument that a Poland with numerous racial minorities would be weak and a menace to peace. In this conflict the American position was between the French and the British. They were little interested in balance of power and therefore they stood for the application of the Wilsonian principles as far as they could be reconciled with existing conditions. They tried to avoid as far as possible large national minorities within Germany, or within Poland. A member of the Polish delegation wrote that "the Americans desired that Poland should obtain neither too much nor too little, but only what belonged to her." So the American delegation made a great contribution towards the solution finally adopted in the question of Pomerania and Danzig. The proposal concerning Pomerania was consistent with the nationality principle, and although it violated in certain respects the economic principle, it did so to a lesser degree than the alternative of cutting Poland off from the sea. In his discussions with Allied statesmen, President Wilson* pointed out that Germany and all concerned had agreed that Poland was to have an outlet to the sea, so that this was an issue between two conflicting principles. Here is a brief extract from a record of the discussion between President Wilson and Lloyd George:

"Lloyd George noted that the number of Germans to be included in the future Polish state was not less than 2,132,000. This was a considerable figure and might spell serious trouble for Poland in the future. . . .

"President Wilson drew attention to the very special effort made in late years by the German Government to colonize the very region. The Germans had sought to make a German cordon from Schneidemühl to Marienverder in order to isolate Danzig from Poland. . . .

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* *The Peace Conference Day by Day*, by Charles T. Thompson, New York, 1920.

THE POLISH YMCA CARRIES ON

(Continued from page 11)

the restaurant and of four or five rooms out of several hundred was all that was permitted to the YMCA. Undaunted, the "Y" began to feed Warsaw's children, cared for Polish refugees from Western Poland who had been evicted from their homes in 15 minutes, and conducted trade courses for glaziers, painters, potters, etc., thereby saving many from deportation to the Reich.

When the Germans finally liquidated the YMCA along with all Polish institutions, Mr. Krasicki, who was arrested by the Germans three times, organized a War Prisoners Aid Committee. This Committee, mindful of the fact that Polish prisoners of war in Germany needed morale boosters in the form of books, sent 150,000 volumes into Germany. This was not so easy a task as would seem at first glance, states Mr. Krasicki, for the German policy of censoring all anti-German and all pro-Polish titles removed 75% of all Polish books from consideration. And if a book title was acceptable to the Government General censors in Poland, it still could be rejected by the Berlin military censorship or by the prisoner of war camp censorship. Geography and history were taboo. So were sociology and economy. *Quo Vadis* was approved by the Government General and vetoed by Berlin. *The Polish Expedition to the Andes* was turned down. A subsequent change of the title to *Expedition to the Andes* slipped by the censors.

The Polish YMCA also took an active part in the Warsaw Uprising of 1944. It set up canteens for the army and the civilian population in empty stores. Throughout the most intense bombardment a concert was given daily in a "theatre" at Krucza and Wspolna Streets in Warsaw, with actors who had refused to perform under the Germans donating their services.

Mr. Krasicki himself spoke over Warsaw's Insurgent radio station in several languages, accusing the Germans of murdering Polish wounded and prisoners of war. Largely through his efforts, the Germans granted combatant status to the insurgents.

Many YMCA workers died in the Uprising. Many went to prisoner of war camps while some went through the hell of the Pruszkow camp from which they were sent to Germany, to the concentration camp at Oswiecim, or in rare cases, freed. Mr. Krasicki's luck held, for he managed to escape from Pruszkow to Cracow.

Following the flight of the Germans, the Polish YMCA regained control of all its property. It found no trace of its buildings in Gdynia and Poznan. Cracow and Lodz had been laid bare of all equipment, even the bedsheets and towels having been removed by the Germans, while Warsaw's fine YMCA building, the largest in Europe, is half destroyed as the result of nine bomb hits. All summer camps remain intact, however.

Thanks to Mr. Krasicki's energy, the 'Y' has resumed its pre-war activity with vigor. The swimming pool in Warsaw's ruined building has been rebuilt and serves as a public bath for 2,000 persons daily. 'Y' centers have been established in other cities, summer camps for the undernourished city children have been reopened and feeding stations for the young people and children have been organized out of the modest provisions gotten together in Poland and brought in from the YMCA in London and New York.

The Polish YMCA never was a class organization. Before the war it was equally interested in Warsaw's 1,000 poorest lads, in the factory workers of Lodz, in the seamen of Gdynia and in the students and professors of Cracow. It is just as democratic now as it was then. No questions are asked and all comers are helped.

To carry on its work of relief, morale building and physical reconditioning of Poland's young people, the Polish YMCA must receive material assistance promptly. Mr. Krasicki promises that all contributions made through the Polish YMCA will receive full acknowledgment. Every assurance is given that this relief will speedily reach those for whom it is intended. YMCA delegates supervise the transportation of relief articles at every stage from their loading in foreign ports to their unloading in Gdynia; transportation within Poland is made by YMCA trucks and final distribution is also under the direction of YMCA workers. Five shipments have already been distributed by the YMCA in Poland.

The Polish YMCA, whose long record speaks for itself, now appeals to the generosity of a country that was spared the unspeakable devastation suffered by Poland, for concrete aid and encouragement in its efforts to save human lives.

Packages, large or small, may be sent to Polish YMCA Warehouse, 33 East 47th Street, New York, N. Y., while donations or communications may be addressed to Paul Super, Polish YMCA, Room 705, 347 Madison Avenue, New York 17, N. Y.

—HALINA CHYBOWSKA.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE POLISH QUESTION IN WORLD WAR I

(Continued from page 14)

"... Many Poles in areas historically Polish were to be left within Germany. . . . The inclusion of . . . Germans in Poland was a violation of one principle; but Germany had been notified that free and safe access to the sea for Poland would be insisted upon. . . . This was one of the things they (the Allies) had fought for. . . ."

The assistance which Poland received from the United States during and after World War I was one of the most decisive factors of her country's independence and reconstruction. Woodrow Wilson and Herbert Hoover became the most popular names in Poland. Hoover's contribution to Poland's economic readjustment forms a separate chapter

and his activities deserve a special survey. They tided Poland over the immediate post-war food crisis and saved thousands of lives.

American sympathy for Poland's struggle for independence has been constant from the first days of her freedom. It was President Wilson who first stated that the absolute stipulation of *complete* independence for all the Polish people was a fundamental condition of peace. It was America who decisively took part in Polish relief work and in rebuilding Poland's economic life. All this marks, as Herbert Hoover said in his address before the Polish Convention in Buffalo on November 12, 1919, "the final repayment of a debt of the American people of 150 years' standing."

PEACE THROUGH SACRIFICE OF SOVEREIGNTY

(Continued from page 12)

their proceedings. The road to final success may be long and painful.

However, it should be stated that once this conception of a proper solution of international problems has been put

forth, it should not be ignored or abandoned. Great Britain should be followed in her generous move by other large states; each and every peace-loving nation should give this idea its support, thus bringing closer the final solution of the great problem of peaceful cooperation among nations.

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THE RISE OF POLISH DEMOCRACY

By WILLIAM JOHN ROSE

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